

To the Editor:

It seems to me that the most compelling reason for impeachment is to set a precedent for the future. While most public servants are undoubtedly honest and dedicated souls, politics probably always will attract some who are hungry for power and/or wealth.

In this age of television, with charisma being the most desirable characteristic for a candidate, we must be on the alert more than ever against a despot or a crook winning the Presidency. Such an aspirant must know in advance that when there are strong indications of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors," the American people will hold the President accountable and bring him to trial through their elected representatives.

Conversely, failure to impeach a President when there is well-grounded suspicion of an impeachable offense is to invite worse trouble in the future.

HUGH SAMSON  
Princeton, N. J., Jan. 21, 1974

To the Editor:

It appears that our elected representatives devoted their holiday to the search for a sign. "What to do about impeachment?" None asked me.

He must serve out his time. He and America deserve each other. We elected him, and we don't have a due process by which to elect an interim replacement. His political character was forged in our mill. Do we not share responsibility for it?

We have always known about the

loose use of political contributions and why they were made. We have known as much as we cared to know, and more than we were willing to acknowledge, about contrived and deceptive election practices, and we have always condoned those who worked in our favor and condemned those of the opposition.

We can't purge ourselves by removing him.

Has he performed the functions of his office? Is he not more than ever likely to perform ethically for the remainder of his term?

Beware of the elected official who says, "What about his credibility?" Ask yourself about his credibility. Will the Presidential replacement have more credibility, and executive ability, or less?

R. A. CLEAVES  
Lakewood, N. J., Jan. 23, 1974

To the Editor:

The most serious objection to Richard M. Nixon's remaining in office is the bad example he sets for children.

He is the most visible and instructive father figure we have, our most impressive teacher. What does he teach our children? To give almost nothing to charity, to cheat in money matters at every opportunity, to lie, to reject all criticism, to be indifferent to the needs of strangers, to treat laws disrespectfully, to love only close friends and relatives and sports on television, and to carpet-bomb at Christmas.

KURT VONNEGUT JR.  
New York, Jan. 27, 1974